



MONTEREY NEWS

May 2001
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THE TOWN

Special Meeting to Precede Annual Town Meeting

A special Town Meeting has been scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 5, at the Monterey Firehouse. Three articles are on the warrant for this meeting, all having to do with necessary additions to the budget for the current fiscal year resulting from circumstances that arose after the budget was approved at last year's Town Meeting.

Article 1 is to see if the Town will vote to transfer \$50,000 from Free Cash to the Snow and Sand Account to cover the additional cost of highway snow removal during the past winter.

Article 2 is to see if the Town will vote to transfer \$50,000 from Free Cash for the Town Hall Barrier Removal Project to cover items of the Town Hall barrier removal (to make handicapped accessible) and renovation that the Commonwealth refused to fund because, while necessary for the renovation, they do not have to do with barrier removal.

Article 3 is to see if the Town will vote to transfer \$9,000 from Free Cash for relocation of the playground in Greene Park. The relocation became necessary when a water pipe break under the leach field for the Town Offices sewage system last August contaminated the old location.

Bonner McAllester

Warrant Set for Annual Town Meeting on May 5

The annual Town Meeting and election of Town Officers is scheduled for Saturday, May 5, at the Monterey Firehouse at 9:30 a.m., to follow the above special Town Meeting.

As usual, much of the warrant has to do with budgetary issues for the upcoming fiscal year. The total proposed Town operating budget for fiscal year 2002 is \$1,893,183, up \$117,476 from the current year's budget. The largest increases are for Sand and Snow, up \$50,000; Schools, up \$28,339; Police Protection, up \$17,587; Highway Capital, up \$10,000; Cemetery Maintenance up \$8,000; Highway Maintenance up \$7,670.

Three articles on the warrant have to do with Monterey's acceptance of the agreement between the five towns in the Southern Berkshire Regional School District concerning the method of budget assessment for the District. Other articles include requests for budgetary allocations for special needs in the coming fiscal year, including \$50,000 for the Stabilization Fund (set up to spread large capital expenditures for items such as Town vehicles over many years instead of having to pay large sums in any one year); \$15,000 for recertification (revaluation) of all properties in Town (required by the state); and \$7,000 for a Town audit. The total for all the special budgetary articles, if approved, is \$107,478, which, added to the proposed operating budget,



Royal Pond, Route 23 at Monterey/Otis line

would result in a total Town fiscal year 2002 budget of \$2,000,671 (down \$16,454 from the current year's total budget, which included \$50,000 more for the Stabilization Fund and special article large capital expenditures for fire rescue vehicle, fire truck, and police cruiser).

All citizens are urged to attend the May 5 Town Meetings to make their voices heard.

Informational Meeting Focuses on Budget, Road Salt

On Friday evening, April 27, about forty-five concerned Monterey citizens met in the Firehouse to discuss the articles on the warrant for this year's annual Town Meeting. George Emmons, Chairman of the Finance Committee presented the budget items and moderated the sometimes spirited discussion. Stan Ross and Dan Moriarty of the Finance Committee were also on hand to answer questions about the budget. Peter Brown fielded most of the questions directed to the Select Board, with Fred Chapman, and Muriel Lazzarini also on hand.

A large part of the discussion focused on increased salt use on Town roads this past winter. The Finance Committee pointed out that the \$50,000 increase in the Sand and Snow (including road salt) budget for fiscal year 2002 is mandated by the state, since this allocation has to at least match the amount actually spent in the most recent winter, which the \$50,000 increase reflects. Peter Brown pointed out that the chief reason

for the increased road salt use this past winter was to make the roads safer than they had been in the past when more sand, which provides some traction but doesn't melt ice, was used. Police Chief Gareth Backhaus confirmed that there had been fewer accidents this winter.

Peter Brown and Fred Chapman also stressed that the Select Board and the Highway Department are still learning how to most efficiently spread the salt and how much to use. Several of the citizens present, while agreeing that the roads had to be safe and that some salt should be used, expressed concern that excessive salt was being used, especially on side roads, causing unnecessary expense and damage to vehicles and the environment. They also pointed out that there seemed to be many more frost heaves this winter, which make the roads potentially less safe and in need of more repair, which will increase the budget still more. It was suggested that side roads should not be salted as much.

Leona Chamberlin of River Road brought the environmental problems into sharp focus by saying that her well became unusable early in the winter because of salt contamination. She had the water tested by Berkshire Enviro-Labs in Lee who reported that the water was unsafe to drink because of high sodium and chloride content and said the well needs be flushed before it can be used.

It was also suggested that a possible way to reduce the highway budget is to petition the state to take over maintenance of Route 23, as it does in all other local towns the highway runs through

(except for the central business districts). Peter Brown said that the state has been so petitioned on more than one occasion in the last thirty years and has always ignored the request. Monterey has continued to be responsible for its section of Route 23 when other towns are not because many years ago when the state was taking over the highway, the then-Highway Superintendent for Monterey objected to losing the work.

Another budget item questioned was the \$17,587 increase for police protection, which both the Select Board and the Police Chief said is an accurate reflection of what is needed; some citizens wondered if it is really necessary. The \$5,286 increase in Health Insurance for Town employees was also questioned, but the Finance Committee explained that every Town employee who works over twenty hours a week (there are currently eight) must receive health insurance under a long-standing agreement, and the cost is going up.

I Love Monterey Day

I Love Monterey Day is scheduled for July 14. If you wish to sponsor any activities, please contact Amy Goldfarb at 528-1804, ext. 25, or e-mail her at roadside @ gouldfarm.org by May 10.

Seven Stones Granted Club Liquor License

On March 26 at 7:00 p.m. a public hearing was held on the application of The Steven Stones on Lake Buel for a Common Victualer All Alcoholic Club Liquor License. Present for the hearing: Don Bernard, owner of Seven Stones;

MONTEREY A LOCAL HISTORY

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Susan TenBroeck and Wayne Dolby, owners of the property abutting Seven Stones; and Town Secretary Bonnie Jurgenson. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Select Board voted unanimously that the license be granted.

Southern Berkshire YMCA

Marta Makuc, director of Southern Berkshire YMCA, presented a request for town support in the amount of \$500 for the agency's work with local teens. Makuc outlined the activities sponsored by the YMCA, including monthly dances at Mount Everett High School, a babysitting class, skating classes, and an annual ice-fishing derby. The Select Board agreed to place a special article on the annual Town Meeting Warrant for the requested amount.

Greene Park

Marta Makuc, representing the Park Commission, discussed the resurfacing of the basketball court and the relocation of the playground at Greene Park. The Select Board agreed to place an article on the special Town Meeting Warrant requesting a transfer of funds from Free Cash to pay for the playground relocation.

— Suzanne Hoppenstedt & Will Marsh

CHARLES J. FERRIS Attorney at Law



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Tree Warden Opposes Tree Removal Special Article

In my recent budget request for fiscal year 2001, I asked for an increase of \$2500, which reflects actual costs of taking care of town trees for the past two years. Rather than being added to my budget, this amount appears in your town warrant as a "Special Article" listing for Tree Removal. This portion of my budget would be overseen by the committee in charge of hiring the new roads supervisor. As your Tree Warden, I am opposed to this manner of handling the budget, and I am writing to inform the townspeople of the following:

1. First and foremost: In the state of Massachusetts, removal of town trees may be authorized by the Tree Warden alone, and only after certain procedures have been followed. This Special Article is misleading to the townspeople in that it implies that tree removal may legally be handled by other town officials, which it may not.

2. As many in town are aware, the Tree Warden is an elected official, neither appointed by the Select Board nor answerable to it or any committee they may appoint. The responsibilities of the position are to protect our town trees and to protect citizens from dangerous town trees, as designated in Chapter 87 of Massachusetts Common Law. The autonomy of the Tree Warden ensures that this protection of trees and citizens is the sole criteria for tree care and removal. It is my belief that the law was set up to ensure that the Tree

Warden's work would not be politically motivated in any way, and it is also my belief that the current manipulations of the Tree Warden's budget are a deliberate attempt to undermine this intent and politicize the position. To the best of my knowledge, the Tree Warden's budget has never been handled by anyone or any committee other than the Tree Warden in this or neighboring towns ever, because of the questionable legality and logic of it.

3. In my twenty-plus years of service to the town, my requests for budget increases have been minimal to say the least, especially when compared with some other town departments. The bills I have submitted to the town for my work have been consistently detailed and accurate. I am confident that there is nothing in this history which indicates that there is any need for my budget to be "overseen" by others.

4. As was reported in the *News* recently, I met with the Select Board this winter to express my concerns about bidding practices in town. There is no doubt in my mind that this change in budget policies for tree removal is in retaliation for that meeting by those who might be disadvantaged by a change in bidding policies in Monterey and their supporters. I am saddened to report this, but I am sure that the vast majority of townspeople do not support this type of political maneuvering, and will welcome the opportunity to vote against it. Please do so at Town Meeting on May 5.

Please feel free to call me with your questions and comments.

— Roger Tryon, Tree Warden

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Scenic Mountain Act Dialogue Desired

The Scenic Mountain Act (SMA) has been on the books since the mid-1970s. In 1977 an environmental team from UMass studied the environs of Monterey and came to the obvious conclusion that water protection is a good thing and erosion is a bad thing. The SMA is a measure to enhance the beauty of the mountain ridges and ensure good quality drinking water and recreational use of our lakes and ponds. Just last year, Stockbridge adopted the Act.

There is a small group starting the process to place the SMA on Monterey's warrant in May, 2002. We plan to have public meetings about this issue throughout the year. But, before this happens, we would like to begin a monthly dialogue in the Monterey News about the Act. If you have any opinions, pro or con, please send them. If you have any questions, we will do our best to answer them in this column.

Send your comments and questions to Chris Blair, Town Hall, PO Box 308, Monterey, 01245.

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Shelley Bynack Named General Store Manager

Downtown Monterey will roll into summer 2001 with a near-total "changing of the guard" in its principal community institutions and hangouts. We already have a new pastor in the church, and we know we'll be wishing our Postmaster, Walter Parks, farewell and happy retirement in June.

Townfolk also learned in the last few months that the General Store will change hands and management. We'll miss Maynard and Gail Forbes as they head off on their first vacation in years and then to new local pursuits. There has been some anxiety about possible changes in the store, its personnel, its wares, its flavor. Now the new owners, Gould Farm, have chosen a manager for the store and there is general celebrating among those who have heard the news since she will be Shelley Bynack, long-time Monterey resident and General Store veteran of more than eight years.

Shelley lives at the top of the hill, more or less across from the Fire Station. She grew up in South Egremont and met her husband, Jim Bynack of Monterey, when she was nineteen. They were married the next year and Shelley has lived

here ever since, raising three sons in the house Jim grew up in.

In addition to this full-time and demanding position (mother of three lively sons), Shelley has held many jobs in this area. She was working when she was a teenager, enjoying her contact with the public as a waitress. She has also driven a school bus and with a partner ran a bakery at the Corn Crib. Many of us remember their famous homemade doughnuts and used to make a long detour from Great Barrington just to bring some home. Shelley is the one who made those doughnuts, and interestingly the big old "dinosaur" machine followed her here to Monterey and lurks in the back somewhere in the General Store. (Maynard Forbes bought it when the Corn Crib shut down, but so far it has not been put back in harness. Shelley says it is huge and working around it is not such a pleasure.)

When Shelley learned in January that the store would be sold, she began dreaming about what kinds of things she would do if she were in a position to run the place. At the urging of family and friends, she applied for the manager's job and when her customers learned of this the letters began pouring in to Gould Farm, recommending her.

"People were coming in here practically crying about what might happen if the store changed," Shelley says.



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Bonner McAllester

Shelley Bynack will become manager of Monterey General Store in June.

"The details began to come out, and Maynard said he and the Scheffeys were selling to Gould Farm and they were trying to find someone to run the place. Two months ago I went over to Gould Farm and spoke to Amy Goldfarb. She had many letters from people recommending me, and I felt so much support."

Like all of us in town, Shelley knows the store is the central focus place for the community. She wants to keep it that way and does not plan any major changes.

"I'm psyched!" Shelley says, with a twinkle. "I am open to suggestions and I have a few ideas for carrying some different products, such as rotisserie chicken, so people can take home a ready-cooked meal."

When asked if she would continue the practice of selling Monterey Store Notes, a form of local currency, in the winter, she said she certainly would. "People like them, and they really help the store during the slow months."

Shelley doesn't mind the busy times in the summer. She likes people and says, "I do well under pressure and I like it when things are busy." She says some of the same young summer staff will be back this year and both Rick and Bonnie, who work in the store now, will be staying on.

The relationship of the General Store with its new owners, Gould Farm, will be through Shelley and her contact there. She feels fine about this arrangement and looks forward to a celebration in June:

Remember When . . . ?

Firehouse Dancers

Hosting USO Style Dance

The Monterey Cultural Council and The Firehouse Dancers are again sponsoring a festive and entertaining event as part of Monterey's Memorial Day Weekend. An evening of good music, good company, and dancing (if you wish) to the Carlin Big Band with Sounds of the 40s!

This is a Dessert Party beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Monterey Firehouse featuring a USO Theme with balloons, cake and ice cream, songs and dance! Dress 40's, uniforms, or just plain "fun"! For reservations — \$35 per couple — call 528-4641!

Come one . . . come all!

"Opening under new management." At this point she feels this will take place around June 1, just as the town welcomes back many of its summer residents.

Jim Bynack, one of seven siblings who grew up here in town, has joked that although he is the true native he thinks he will be known now as "Shelley's husband" as she moves into her new job and position in the community. Like the rest of Shelley's fans and customers, he is thrilled that she got the job.

— Bonner J. McAllester

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Fire Department Activities

The Fire Department responded to the following calls in March:

Building Fires	2
(including New England Log Homes in Great Barrington)	
Chimney Fire	1
(mutual aid to Sandisfield)	
Emergency Medical Service	2
(vehicle accidents causing personal injury)	
Alarm Responses	2
(accidental & erroneous transmissions)	
Grand Total	7

Training

On Wednesday evening, March 21, an instructional demonstration of correct and effective use of the new ice rescue sled was presented by the manufacturer to members of the Fire Department. The members had to watch a documentary video tape of an unsuccessful rescue attempt that failed because a rescue sled was not available when two young men simultaneously fell through the ice in Idaho, Nebraska. The difficulty of an ice rescue increases when the ice is so thick a boat cannot get near the victims, and yet not thick enough to support a person, so that a rescuer quickly becomes a potential victim in the same deadly circumstance.

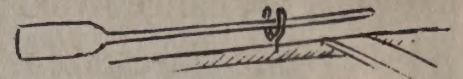
Effective use of the rescue sled saved five children from drowning in Queens several months ago. Every year hundreds of people who have fallen through the ice have only minutes to save themselves. Hypothermia quickly impairs a victim's ability to hold onto the ice; his temperature drops, and he becomes dangerous to rescuers.

The rescue sled enables rescuers to run over very thin ice, or paddle over open water to reach a victim quickly, while maintaining a position of control from a stable work platform that weighs only 88 pounds but is able to provide 600 pounds of flotation.

The rescuer slides the victim completely from the water onto the sled to eliminate traumatic dragging, and extraordinary strength is not required to do so. The victim is strapped and suspended for safe retrieval with a line attached to a fixed object.

The ice rescue sled in Monterey is waiting and ready, should it be needed, and the members of the Fire Department are trained how to use it. The Monterey Fire Company, not the Fire Department, have paid for it, so it is not costing the taxpayers anything, even though it may be one of them who falls through and is quickly rescued.

— George Emmons



Learn to Row June 3 on Lake Garfield

The Berkshire Rowing and Sculling Society is hosting a "Learn to Row" morning on Lake Garfield on Sunday, June 3, starting about 7:30 a.m. Sculls and instruction will be available for beginners and anyone else interested. Preregistration is requested. Come on out and find out about the pleasure of rowing and sculling.

This summer the Society is also touring different lakes in the Berkshires. They will be touring Lake Garfield on Saturday July 28, and anyone interested is invited to come along. Rental sculls will be available. Preregistration is requested.

For information on or to register for either event, call Lanny Lanoue in Monterey, 528-6091, or Lew Cuyler, President of the Society, in Pittsfield at 413/496-9160

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Materials Exchange Avoids Waste, Saves Money

Businesses are saving money and reducing waste with help from the Massachusetts Materials Exchange, a non-profit service that connects businesses disposing of reusable materials and by-products with those that can use them.

A new fully interactive website (www.MaterialsExchange.org) now makes information available faster and easier. In one visit to the website, businesses can quickly search information about hundreds of materials, contact appropriate businesses, and place new listings for materials they want or have. As an added convenience, visitors can sign up to automatically receive e-mail notices of new listings for the types of materials they select without having to revisit the website.

A large quantity of usable items and materials are disposed of every day, at significant cost to businesses and the environment. Manufacturer's by-prod-

ucts and scrap, packaging materials, surplus and misprinted products, industrial equipment, and office furnishings and equipment are examples of materials relocated by the Materials Exchange for reuse by businesses, schools, and other organizations.

Over the last five years, the service has diverted over 2,600 tons of materials to businesses and non-profits. Participants have saved over \$120,000 in avoided purchasing costs, because used items usually cost much less than new ones, and another \$70,000 in avoided disposal costs.

Many non-profits have also been recipients of materials through the program. "We've been able to get over 1,200 pieces of furniture and office equipment to non-profit organizations, saving them over \$20,000 in purchasing costs," said Jim Desmond, Materials Exchange Manager. "Other listed materials are sold through the Materials Exchange from business to business."

"Many new participants are surprised at the variety of materials we can handle,"

said Desmond. "We can help businesses review their operations to identify the materials they're buying or discarding that could be listed with us."

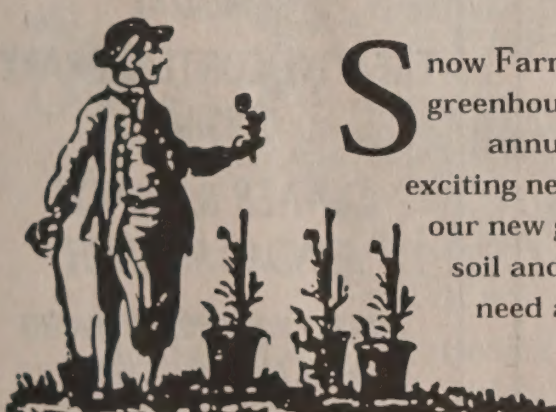
Current listings for available materials include manufacturing equipment and machinery, particle board and other building materials, rubber scrap, surplus paint, plastic release sheeting, and packaging materials. Current listings for materials wanted include steel tanks, gaylord boxes, used computers, scrap metals, 55-gallon barrels, Teflon scrap, and used office furniture and equipment.

Businesses with materials available or wanted can visit www.MaterialsExchange.org to place a listing, view current listings and sign up for automatic e-mail notices. If no immediate match is found by the visitor, Materials Exchange staff actively research and identify markets for materials wanted and available and get businesses the appropriate contact information. When a match is made, participants are asked to voluntarily contribute a portion of the value realized to help the Materials Exchange service continue.

Businesses without web access can still participate by calling the Materials Exchange at (800) 369-3333 or (413) 586-7350. Recycling and reuse organizations, trade associations, and municipalities can help by linking their webpages to the Materials Exchange site, or by announcing the program in their newsletters.

The Materials Exchange is a service of the Center for Ecological Technology.

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Rep Rap

In the 1998 general election two-thirds of Massachusetts voters spoke loud and clear by approving Question 2, better known as the Clean Elections proposal. This vote endorsed the public financing for political campaigns of statewide offices as well as state senator and state representative candidates running for office in the Commonwealth.

I eagerly supported the ballot question because it aims to reduce the impact of money on politics and public policy making while allowing candidates to campaign on their ideas rather than spending their time trying to raise funds. In 1998 it is estimated that winning House candidates spent on average \$38,729 in contested general elections contests. Further reports indicate that those who hold the spending advantage win, that winners outspend losing candidates, and that potential candidates are deterred from running for office due to the amount of money it takes to run a campaign. Finally, during the 1996 election cycle approximately 24,000 individuals gave contributions of \$100 or more to state legislative candidates, for a total of \$6.6 million. These donors represent 0.5 percent of the 4.4 million voters in Massachusetts. The majority of voters cannot afford to participate at this level, and as a result a small

fraction of voters helps to determine which candidates have the financial ability to run a successful campaign.

The law is based on a voluntary system allowing candidates who agree to spending limits and \$100 contribution limits to receive a set amount of public funds for their campaigns, starting with the 2002 election. To participate in the Clean Elections system a candidate would have to raise a minimum number of contributions in his or her district. For example, a candidate for state representative must raise two hundred \$5-\$100 contributions in his or her district between January 1, 2002, and the last day to file nomination papers. Furthermore participating candidates may not accept contributions larger than \$100 from any political committees or individuals. Candidates meeting all these requirements would receive public funding in the primary and general elections. Any unspent public funding would need to be returned after the election, and any unopposed candidate would receive half the money that he or she would have received if facing an opponent.

The law took effect on March 31, 2001, and all Clean Elections participants needed to freeze their current campaign accounts. I have frozen my account and will register as a Clean Elections candidate. There have been recent attempts to gut the law under the pretense

that the voters didn't know what they were voting for when they went to the polls. I have received hundreds of phone calls in support of the measure, all from people who clearly knew the intent of the proposal. This enables people to campaign based on the issues, not the size of their campaign accounts. The voters know the extent of perceived influence of money on politics, which is precisely why they voted in favor of the Clean Elections question. To do anything to dismantle this law would only diminish the trust that people have placed in the hands of their elected officials.

If you should have any questions on this issue, please don't hesitate to contact my full-time district office at 243-0289.

— Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins

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Senator Says State-Owned Lands Should Pull Their Own Weight

One of my budget priorities for FY02 is a bread and butter issue for small towns in western Massachusetts. Early this month, local officials in the Town of Washington brought to my attention preliminary municipal aid figures showing a steep drop in some payments from the state for Fiscal Year 2002.

Each year, the state distributes local aid to cities and towns in the form of "Payments in Lieu of Taxes," or PILOT funding. Since state-owned real estate such as forest and park land is not subject to local property taxes, PILOT funds are paid to cities and towns to help cover the costs of municipal services. Because of the significant acreage of land in state forests and parks in western Massachusetts, many towns in my district depend on fair funding of the PILOT account.

In the past year, two factors resulted in significant shifts in the amount each city or town will receive through the PILOT account: 1) Underfunding of the "PILOT" account in the Governor's proposed FY02 budget, and 2) State Department of Revenue (DOR) revaluation of state lands in 2000.

Revaluation of state-owned land is done every five years. The most recent

revaluation was completed in 2000. The process showed that eleven towns in my Senate district would see an increase in payments (totaling \$180,447), but thirty-three municipalities will lose state funding (-\$447,256). The overall decline in land values in my district results in a net loss of about \$267,000 in annual state payments to this area.

The impact of lower PILOT valuations has been magnified by underfunding of the account in the Governor's FY2002 budget request. About \$31 million is needed for full funding of the PILOT account this year. Governor Cellucci requested only \$21 million for the account.

To restore the lost funding for towns in this district, I will make two proposals for the Senate budget. 1) Increase the line item for PILOT from the Governor's \$21 million to \$31 million. 2) Propose a "hold harmless" clause for municipalities that suffered a drop in land valuations this year, allowing them to maintain their



Diane Piraino

Spring arrival at Rawson Brook Farm

FY01 level of state support in FY02. I will also work with DOR officials to ensure that future notices regarding changes in municipal funds are fully communicated in a timely manner to all affected local officials.

— Senator Andrea F. Nuciforo, Jr.



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I will meet with you at your home in Monterey.

lament (for S.)

peer pilgrim eyes
 seeking some portent
 pagan liberation
a thousand naked limbs
 shuddering hills
 flurried dawns till dusk
for her swelling shrine
 warm terrain, like breasts,
 rising—tell me where!
flower hidden, bidden
 in the stark rhythm
 of my heart

— R. Zukowski

Irony (a primer)

All my lie, I think,
Oh, four, he two plus two.
Discover Quantum Man,
He say, no,
Not necessarily, man.
Mr. Webster, he say,
Aye, a mockery of what?
You think. O.K. monkey!
What you think
Is gonna happen, man?
Whatever it is,
Guess what?
You probably wrong.
Probably, man.
This happen long ago.

— Peter Shepley

*Had to kill some time on the way to picking up somebody
in Sandisfield. Arrived too early, so drove up hill where
Sandisfield Cemetery lies. Great view of surrounding hills,
just the faintest hint of green, still mostly reddish buds,
brown, cloudless sky, pale blue. Stopped at the top
near a mausoleum. Listening Van Morrison play
a lilting, almost Oriental melody on the saxophone,
accompanied by light piano. Looked out car window,
saw what I believe was a red-tailed hawk, but not sure,
not just circling, gliding with the music, hovering when
the music hovered, just as in time and rhythm with Van
as a bird could be, and vice versa. Then, when the song
ended, the hawk flew out of my view, the sky emptied.*

*Above the graveyard wheels
The red-tailed hawk
A dance with Van.*

— Peter Shepley

Mrs. Parker's ditty

Mrs. Parker

got out of bed

and faced the day with growing dread.

She stretched her foot with painted toes

remembering all that no one knows.

She fetched a sigh, "Oh, I could die!"

Antigua here we come!

Park Avenue in the winter Antigua in the spring

Easthampton in the summer

lunches, brunches, dances, plays

smoothly flowing empty days

and so around the golden ring.

Mrs. Parker

opened her mail

and knew that she would always fail

her husband with his hands of gold

whose face all lined was getting old.

She wept a tear, "Oh damn, oh dear!"

Antigua here we come!

Park Avenue in the winter, Antigua in the spring etc.

Mrs. Parker

walked up the street

ignoring those she would not greet.

She saw her face in every glass

and saw that it was hard as brass.

She closed her lids, "Tough on the kids!"

Antigua here we come!

Park Avenue in the winter, Antigua in the spring etc.

Mrs. Parker

and this is odd —

suddenly remembered God,

herself in patent leather shoes.

The gospel; means good news, good news.

benevolent or relevant?

Antigua here we come?

Park Avenue in the winter, Antigua in the spring

Easthampton in the summer

lunches, brunches, death on the cross

might one redeem one's sense of loss

and yet go round the golden ring?

— A. O. Howell

Tao

I love space

for what it is

not

I love time

time

time

time

for what it can

never

I love you

for no

I love you

because

yes!

— A. O. Howell

From the Meetinghouse . . .

I've been spending a lot of my time this week writing my final paper for my class at Andover Newton. So I thought I'd share with you what I've been working on.

The movie *Contact* is a modern telling of the Exodus story: a woman travels from our solar system out into space to make contact with the great intelligence of the universe. Space is to us, I think, just like the ancient Hebrews' desert land: empty, dangerous, mysterious, and beyond significant human influence, so far. And space is also a place where we can learn the Law — the laws of the universe — in a way we can't from our comfortable home on Earth.

But I want to catch myself before I get lost in the romance and theoretical physics of Earth's place in the universe, I want to quote what I think is one of the most important lines of the film: "How did you do it? How did you survive technological adolescence without destroying yourselves?" Wilderness, for the Hebrews and for Ellie, the film's protagonist, is not just about spiritual ecstasy, but also about taking responsibility. How will we take responsibility for the future of our existence on Earth? The Hebrews, too, became God's chosen people, *but* they also became responsible for all the activities of their daily lives — to respect God and their community by following the laws God gave them, so they wouldn't be "unclean." I think that

today we are unclean, that today we are breaking God's covenant, because of our abuse of Creation. Wisdom and holiness and spiritual life are impossible without attention to daily, physical living. We must be aware of our effect on the whole Earth community around us, not just talk to God privately.

Perhaps we, like Ellie, like our immigrant ancestors, and like our Hebrew ancestors, must go to the "wilderness" to get wisdom. Perhaps that means space, perhaps a new country, perhaps into the woods, the ocean, or the desert. This is where God speaks to people: in the places where we don't feel safe, where we don't understand what's going on, where we are no longer the center. Wilderness is raw, free of human structures, and full of the sacred!

Earth lives in the wilderness of space, and we are dependent on this Earth for life, just as the Israelites in their wilderness were dependent on God. We are not independent. God says in Exodus 19, "The whole Earth is mine." We are special, but we are not more important than the rest of Creation. We are participants, we are citizens, and we are children of this planet alongside the creatures, waters, fields, forests, and rocks. I pray we can form a new covenant with them and with God, to survive on this beautiful, isolated planet and perhaps to find ourselves in a new Promised Land together.

— Heidi R. Haverkamp



The Coming of the Lord God Woodpecker

The snow is finally gone, coltsfoots are bravely up on the gritty roadbanks, trilliums set to go. We have been a long time waiting for spring this year, and now that it has come at last we might feel suddenly exposed. The sun is too much, sometimes, without leaves on the trees to give us our shady woods and yards.

On the other hand, this is the time of year we can see deep into the woods, the time bird-watchers never leave home without their binoculars. Warblers are back, thrushes on the way. Great blue herons have been cruising the frozen swamps scouting old favorite nest sites in

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the silver spars, and the woodpeckers have been noisy and noticeable for weeks.

Anyone who puts out suet for the birds knows the smaller downy and hairy woodpeckers, and some of us in Monterey have even been visited by the handsome red-bellied woodpeckers this year. Sapsuckers are back, beating tattoos on road signs and metal gutters, announcing their territories and romantic readiness. Altogether we have our annual woodpecker drumming extravaganza right on time this year, despite the long cold spring and persistent snow cover.

When the leaves are out, territories settled, nests full of eggs and incubating parents, the woodpeckers will be quiet. We will see them occasionally and hear their alarm calls from time to time. The one I'll miss the most will be the biggest one, the author of those huge rectangular holes and big piles of chips: the pileated woodpecker.

They will still be around, of course, but I know I won't see much of them. These big black birds are visible now, with their striking face stripes, red crests, and broad wingspans. They are about twenty inches long, from crest to tail, and when they fly their wings span thirty inches with bold white patches on the undersides. Many of the mated pairs in these parts will be moving back into traditional nesting cavities, making fresh linings of chips and even some sand. Others will find they have been displaced by squirrels. In order to stay in familiar territory, the woodpeckers will set to work

on a new nest, which might take the two adults as long as a month to complete. The nest hole may be anywhere from ten to seventy feet above the ground, with a relatively small opening, three or four inches across. The cavity will be excavated deep inside the tree, below the hole. Sometimes they are thirty inches deep.

Three to five white eggs are laid here and the birds take turns incubating them during the day. At night the male takes over incubation completely and the female roosts nearby. After fifteen days the eggs hatch. The babies have no feathers at first and never go through a downy chick stage. They develop stick-like pinfeathers which become "juvenile plumage" very like the adults. When the young birds climb to the doorway of the nest hole and make their first flights, after about four weeks as nestlings, they commonly fly as far as one hundred yards and never return to the nest again. For several weeks the parents will feed, guide and guard the young birds.

"Pileated" woodpeckers are named for their poppy-red crest. This part of the



Bonner McAllester

Pileated woodpecker nesting tree

head is called the "pileum" and in this species of woodpecker the feathers here are long and erectile. The birds can move them quickly and easily, causing quick changes of expression. In some places this bird used to be known as: Logcock, Great Black Woodpecker, Cock of the Wood, Wood Hen, Great God Woodpecker, Good God Woodpecker, and even Lord God Woodpecker.

Some people look for crocuses in the spring, others for the first green grass. We are always on the lookout here for our hens to perk up, for their combs to turn red. They notice the increasing day-length no matter how deep the snow is or how cold the nights. Pagans, Christians, laying hens, houseplants, sugar maples, and birch twigs: we all respond to the coming of spring. We decorate eggs in our house and bring in forsythia twigs for some sunshine yellow, a promise of more light to come. Out in the woods, no matter what dire stuff is on the daily radio, we are blessed again by the coming of the Lord God Woodpecker.

— Bonner J. McAllester

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Native American Artifacts, Clans, and Casinos

If you are like me, to find just one small arrowhead revealed in the furrow of a plowshare is a main archeological event. Plucked from the dark moist earth and held in the palm of one hand, it is a treasure to behold, giving a sense of connection to its maker. It is tragic that so much of the culture of a people who were so close to their environment has been lost forever, leaving only a few stone tools.

How did this happen? Chief Crazy Horse of the Oglala Sioux said, "They may kill me and all my people, but they cannot kill our spirit. It will merely go underground and reappear from time to time, coming to the surface like the hills of a mole!"

The Monterey Knox Trail Museum has a valuable collection of stone artifacts, as does the Indian Museum in Washington, Connecticut, not far away. Not to condone gambling, the Foxwoods Casino near Ledyard, Connecticut, also has a museum and gallery that compares with National Indian Museums in New York City, Washington, D.C., and Denver Colorado. The Foxwoods Museum is more focused on the local Pequot tribe, whose name means "people of the fox" — just as bands and clans within larger nations identified with animals, birds, fish, and reptiles.

Some of the Mahicans who hunted here were members of the Turtle Clan,

the turtle being symbolic and sacred to their beliefs about their origin in this place. Modern anthropology theorizes that their ancestors migrated here across the Aleutian Islands, but they don't subscribe to that. They believe the North American continent is their original homeland, and in their legend it is the back of a turtle surrounded by a sea of water. The Mahicans were long ago uprooted from the Berkshires by colonial land encroachments. They wandered west until in 1992, they put down their ancestral claim in Bowler, Wisconsin, where they have opened their North Star Casino, as well as the Konkopot Resort Hotel.

Two years later, in 1994, there were signs that the luck of Native Americans everywhere was changing for the better. In Lakotah Sioux lore, such a change was expected to happen about every one hundred years. The prophet White Buffalo Woman predicted that, like the second coming of a Messiah for the Christians, the time of change would be noted by the birth of a very rare pure white (not an albino) buffalo calf. Every Native American knows that for the first time on record in the twentieth century in this vast land that once was theirs, a pure white buffalo calf was born in the summer of 1994 on a game farm in Jamesville, Wisconsin, coincidentally, not far away from the Mahicans in Bowler.

That same year, Congress passed the National Repatriation Act, mandating that

Indian bones, human remains, funerary objects, religious pieces, and tribal relics must be returned upon request to descendants with cultural affiliations to the property in question. When I heard this, I resolved to find a way to give back my most prized Native American artifacts. One was a mortar, a portable stone bowl, worn into its shape by many moons of grinding corn or nuts into meal. The other was a pestle, a hand held stone tool to do the grinding. I took them both to a small Indian Cultural Center in The Trailside Museum of The Pound Ridge Wildlife Reservation near where we lived in northern Westchester County.

The curator there was pleased and said they would share a place of exhibition with much older Paleolithic projectile points and skinning tools. These had been recovered from an ancient dig nearby, along with a jawbone and giant molar of a mastodon. How primitive hunters could corner and kill and elephant-size mammal was painted by an artist on the wall, a scene depicting use of a spear-throwing stick called an *atl-atl*. The long stick extended the leverage and power of a human arm, providing enough force to inflict a mortal wound. I felt my objects were where they should be, to be appreciated by hundreds of visitors, but a connection with Native America was not quite complete.

However, outside the museum, on one of the trails, I perceived a historical

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presence. There on a large standing rock is a famous petroglyph, a crude carving of a prehistoric profile of the head of a bear, or a wolf. I did some research at the library in Bedford, New York. If you want Native American history, go to the nearest library; for instance, there is the *History of Monterey* in our own library. In the Bedford library I found accounts of early settlers being terrified when large numbers of Native Americans would annually be attracted to Pound Ridge for a fall ritualistic harvest of game. I deduced that the head on the rock is that of a wolf, because of a group method of hunting, still practiced up until colonial times. Indians would fan out across the country to form a human dragnet, like a wolf pack. With loud chanting and beating of drums they would drive their quarry toward the ridge. Then they would set fire to the grass and brush to hasten a stampede up a narrow incline and on to a plateau, with sides so steep, a barricade at the entrance could contain animals as if in a pound.

Today, there are some descendants of these hunters still living in the Ramapo foothills that extend from there across the Hudson River. They call themselves the Ramapoughs. Many were wiped out in a massacre in the year 1644, at the hands of the Dutch. In the same public library, I read a dog-eared and grizzled document entitled *The Narratives of New Netherland*, which told of troops marching out of New Amsterdam (now New York City) to deal with Indians considered troublesome. They were camped at the base of the ridge to build cooking fires up against



rocks that would retain heat during the night. They were caught there in the dead of winter.

It seems that many massacres of Native Americans also occurred at this time of year, such as Wounded Knee, Sand Creek, and the so-called Great Swamp Fight in King Philip's War. This may explain why White Buffalo Woman first appeared as a vision a hundred years ago, at a time of famine and in a blizzard, with her promise of a cyclical renewal of Indian ways — not unlike the prophecy of Crazy Horse.

To this very day, the Ramapoughs still make bread out of ground corn meal and hunt deer in autumn. They trace their lineage back 5,000 years, and in accor-

dance with the 1988 Federal Gaming Regulatory Act, recently applied for tribal recognition to build a casino in Hillsdale, New York. Approval has been temporarily blocked by political and legal action by those with vested interests in Atlantic City casinos. Just as the miracle of a genetic roll of the dice brought the hope of the white buffalo calf, we can all hope that the process of tribal recognition will benefit these people, as well as all Native Americans on reservations all across America. But somehow the odds are against major social and cultural retribution, so I wouldn't bet on it!

— George Emmons

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Excessive Road Salt

To the Editor:

I am writing concerning the excessive use of road salt on our highways this past winter. Our tonnage used is up four to five times that used five years ago on the same roads.

I disagree with Peter Brown's written comments in last month's *Monterey News* regarding the current use of road salt. Our roads are not worse than our neighboring towns of Tyringham, Sandisfield, New Marlborough, and Otis. I frequently travel them. Great Barrington's section of Route 23 has always been better than Monterey's section of Route 23. In Great Barrington the elevation is lower, the state uses more road salt, they have more traffic, and there are fewer overhanging trees. In Monterey there are sections of Route 23 where the street lined evergreens shade the roadway for much of a winter's day, and the roadway at the Otis end of town travels adjacent to the north-facing slopes of our hills. It is therefore difficult for sunlight to melt the snow off these sections.

Road salt endangers our trees and pollutes our groundwater. Peter Brown said that sand was the pollutant in his recent article. I believe that it is the salt, rather than the sand, that is the pollutant. Salt rusts our cars, bridges, culverts, and guardrails, all of which can be expensive to repair or replace.

Sand is clean, noncorrosive, offers traction control, and is in no way pollut-

MaryKate Jordan

A Stitch in Time

'The Campground' Hooked Rug

At the end of the nineteenth and start of the twentieth centuries, exploration of "the great untamed wilderness" was extremely fashionable. Reports of the expeditions of adventurers like Theodore Roosevelt and John Muir added a romantic flair to the adventure.

At about the time that the "cottages" were sprouting in Stockbridge and Lenox, campgrounds catered to the hardy tourist. Taking time away from the city in the heat of the summer was suddenly not only in vogue, but also good for one's health. Images of men hunting, fishing, subduing nature, relaxing in the wild, and of North America's wild animals themselves all became popular motifs for then-contemporary folk art. This tiny rug, only by inches around, is filled with the figures and naive sense of disproportion that

provides folk art with much of its charm.

The first step of this rug's known journey to Massachusetts began fifty years ago in Philadelphia and the Delaware Water Gap area of Pennsylvania. Bonnie Cox first remembers seeing it when she was a child visiting her grandmother, Anna Sellers Cox.

"I have two favorite parts of the picture on this rug," Bonnie says. "First, there's the bear hiding in the bushes in the upper left-hand corner, then the fish jumping on its line over the island in the middle of the lake. They're huge, compared with the human figures, so I guess they must have been pretty important to the person who made the rug."

And the rug is pretty important to Bonnie. Not only a delightful work of art, its primary value is as a treasured gift from her grandmother.

— MaryKate Jordan

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ant. It can be an obstruction to our catch basins and culverts. Sand does not need to be all picked up as reported by Mr. Brown. There is no law requiring that sand is to be picked up. However the town should continue to pick up sand in the village area and at major intersections. It is a compromise to protect our environment.

Our major through roads in town, Route 23, Route 57, Tyringham Road, and Sandisfield Road, should be de-iced more than our secondary roads, as they are traveled more by nonresidents as well as residents. The speed traveled on our primary roads is generally higher than on our secondary roads, which is a major cause of auto accidents and injuries. Our secondary roads are primarily traveled by our neighbors. We as neighbors can self-police our own driving habits. We could also ask the school system to gradually work toward a goal of using four-wheel drive vehicles on our secondary roads to transport our children to school.

Monterey in the past has always been an environmentally sensitive community, and I feel that we need to go back to being more of an environmentally sensitive

community. To that end, we should be looking toward implementing ways to become more environmentally sensitive. One way is through the use of more sand and less road salt on our roadways.

We could:

1. Slow winter traffic down.
2. Mix more sand with the salt when deicing for a flurry activity or light snow.
3. Use more of a sand mix when forecasts are moderating and temperatures go up.
4. In November, February, and March use more sand as the temperatures are more moderate and the days are longer.
5. Ask the people who live on our secondary roads how much de-icing materials they want on their roads in balancing their environmental concerns and needs in traveling on their roads.
6. Petition our town government to implement more creative environmentally sensitive policies regarding the use of road salt and sand.
7. Encourage townspeople to take a more active role in the decision-making process regarding the care of our winter roadways.

— Roger Tryon

Remembering Anna Venceslau

Anna M. "Cookie" Venceslau, 62, of 105 Laurel St., Lee, formerly of Monterey, died March 14 at Berkshire Medical Center.

Born in Canaan, Connecticut, on August 14, 1938, daughter of John E. and Anna Daniels Stupak, she graduated from the former Searles High School in 1956.

An accounts representative at Smith Watson & Co. for 20 years, she retired in 1998. She enjoyed gardening, baking, canning, and traveling. She had made several cross-country trips by camper and had traveled to Alaska within the past year.

She leaves her husband, Frank Venceslau, whom she married in 1994; a daughter, Elizabeth Barry of Berlin; a son, Jeffrey Bynack of Monterey; a sister, Harriette Sturges of Ashley Falls; and two brothers, John Stupak of Sedon, Ariz., and Paul Stupak of Long Beach, Calif. A son, John Bynack, died in 1958; a stepsister, Katherine Kusznir, died in 1962; and a brother, Steven Stupak, died in 1992.

Memorial donations may be made to the Lee Ambulance Squad in care of Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home, 426 Main St., Great Barrington, MA 01230.

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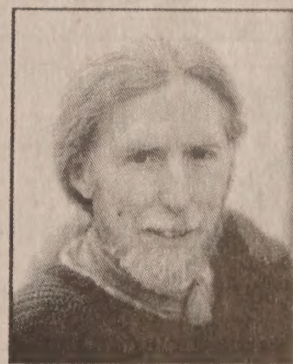
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Remembering Jane Bowles

Jane Thomas Bowles, 92, of 75 Wallace Hall Road died Thursday, April 12, at Great Barrington Rehabilitation and Nursing Center.

A lifelong member of the Society of Friends, she was born in Central Village, Westport, Mass., on July 4, 1908, daughter of Wilbur K. and Elizabeth Folger Thomas. In 1929 her father, a Friends' minister, bought and subsequently retired to the Ravine Falls Farm in Monterey.

A graduate of Friends' Select School in Philadelphia and Earlham College in Indiana, Mrs. Bowles completed coursework at Simmons College of Social Work in Boston and did casework in Media, Penn. She took a post at Ginling College in Nanking, China, after her studies in Media. She was married in Nanking on February 6, 1932, to the late Gordon T. Bowles.

Active in her husband's research in anthropology, she traveled on foot, horseback, and train with him from 1933 to 1937 in Pakistan, northern India, Assam, and Burma, and helped coordinate data from that trip with his earlier western China materials. She also worked with the American Friends Service Committee, coordinating seminars for food distributions to Europe. She moved to Honolulu in 1938 and helped establish an office for the committee.

She relocated to Washington, D.C., after Pearl Harbor and worked as a coordinator for the International House and as a fundraiser for Sidwell Friends School. In 1951, the family moved to Tokyo, and she became the American program officer for the Fulbright Commission on Japan. In 1960, they moved to Syracuse, N.Y.

Mrs. Bowles retired in 1972 with her husband to Monterey. During her lifelong association with Monterey, she appreciated her many friends in the town Friends Meeting and at Woolman Hill, and the Friends' Conference and Retreat Center in Deerfield.

She leaves two daughters, Barbara Bowles Swann, town clerk of Monterey, and Anne Bowles Pipal of Alfred, N.Y.; a brother, T. Folger Thomas of West Brandywine, Penn.; and a granddaughter, Jennifer H. Swann of Manhattan, N.Y.; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Memorial services for Jane Thomas Bowles will be Saturday, May 19, at Monterey United Church of Christ in the manner of Friends, under the care of the South Berkshire Meeting. Memorial contributions may be sent to the South Berkshire Friends of Meetinghouse Fund, in care of Hickey-Roy Funeral Home, 33 South St., Great Barrington, MA 01230.

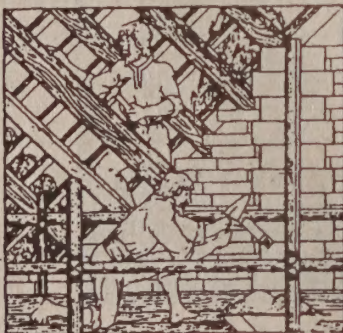
Personal Notes

Happy Birthday to **Cora Baker** on the 3rd, **Douglas Brown** on the 6th, **Eoin Higgins** on the 8th, **Tarsi Dunlop** on the 9th, **Noah Mintz-Roberts** on the 13th, **Judah Piepho** on the 17th, **Deirdre Higgins**, **Tess Dunlop**, and **Isaiah Schulze** on the 22nd, **Chris Goldfinger** on the 26th, **Alexandra Newman** on the 29th, and **Mary Makuc**, and **Jacob and Elijah Mintz-Roberts** on the 31st.

Happy Anniversary wishes to **Arnold and Kay Pratt** on the 6th, **Bill and Jeanne Zad** on the 7th, **Ken and Erica Pratt** on the 8th, **Alf and Lena Pedersen** on the 22nd, **Nancy and David Brady** on the 27th.

Annabel Edelman, a sixth grader at Lenox Memorial Middle School, was a member of the very successful Math Team. They won all three meets against Searles and Mt. Everett. Congratulations, Annabel.

— Deborah Mielke



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Calendar

Every Thursday: People's Pantry, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., St. Peter's Parish, 16 Russell St., Great Barrington. Free food for the needy.

Friday, May 4: Monterey Food Co-op order distribution and pick-up, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Meetinghouse basement.

Saturday, May 5:

Special Town Meeting, Firehouse, 9 a.m. See p. 1.

Annual Town Meeting and Town Election, 9:30 a.m., Firehouse.

Sunday, May 13: Outdoor worship service at the Monterey parsonage, 478 Main Road, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, May 15: Free blood pressure clinic, 9-10:30 a.m., Meetinghouse basement, administered by Visiting Nurses Assoc. (Please note the change in location.)

Saturday, May 19: Family Network father and child trip to Gould Farm,

Contributors

We are grateful to the following people for their recent contributions:

Gerard Lavallee

Louise Henry

Ann Larkin

Eileen Clawson

Dorothy Beach

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Saturday, May 26: Square and contra dancing, 8:30-11:30 p.m. at the Sheffield Grange, Rt. 7, Sheffield, Mass. Music by Mountain Laurel, calling by Peter Stix. All dances are taught, and beginners and children are welcome. Refreshments at intermission. Adults \$5, children \$2. Information 413-528-9385.

The Observer

March 26—April 25

High temp. (4/24) 85°

Low temp. (3/28) 10°

Avg. high temp. 53.1°

Avg. low temp. 30.0°

Avg. temp. 41.6°

Total precipitation

(rain and melted snow) 3.24"

Snowfall 6.0"

Precipitation occurred on 16 days.

* * *

Saturday, May 26: "USO Style" Desert Dance, Monterey Firehouse, 7:30-11:00 p.m. With The Carlin Big Band, sponsored by the Firehouse Dancers and the Monterey Cultural Council. \$35/couple; reservations 528-4641.

Sunday, May 27: Reverend John McKinstry preaching at Monterey United Church of Christ, 10 a.m.

Monday, May 28: Memorial Day, Town Offices closed.

Friday, June 1: Monterey Food Co-op order distribution and pick-up, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Meetinghouse basement.

Sunday, June 3: Learn to row with Berkshire Rowing and Sculling Society, Lake Garfield, 7:30 a.m. Information and registration 528-6091 or (413) 496-9160.

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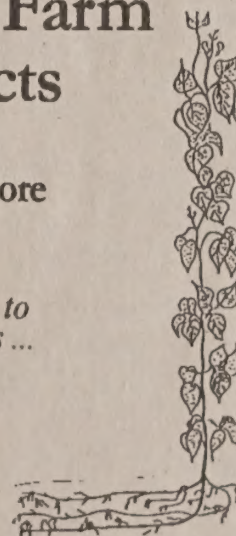
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Our editorial address is *Monterey News*, P. O. Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs from readers. Please send submissions (on PC disk if possible) by the fifteenth of the month before publication, addressed to the attention of the Editor. Send any change of address, or initial request to receive the

News by mail (free!) to Barbara Tryon, Business Manager. We will typeset a text-only ad for your Monterey-based business, service, or event, or advertisers may submit an ad with graphics on a PC formatted disk. Address your request for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us in Monterey at 413-528-4347.

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Contributions from local artists this month: George Emmons, p. 15; Bonner McAllester, p. 12; Glynis Oliver, p. 6.

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